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But why?

I'm a student btw.

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Because it's worse in every way than using a temporary variable. *In every way*.

People say "it uses less space because it doesn't use a 3rd variable" but that's fucking bullshit. In reality, the normal temp variable swap will just copy the variables to registers, and then put the variables back to RAM. In the normal situation where the variables were already in registers, the "temp variable" is optimized out by the compiler. It just... puts the variables back into RAM. In the event that the variables were always going to stay in registers you might think you're saving a register, but you're not doing that, either. The compiler will recognize the temporary variable swap idiom and compile it down to the swap instruction.

Even if it did save 1/2/4/8 bytes of RAM as proponents claim, it's slower, and will fail if the two variables alias each other. And the 1/2/4/8 bytes you save will be wasted by the extra 3 instructions your code has to keep in memory to do the swap.

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> The compiler will recognize the temporary variable swap idiom and compile it down to the swap instruction.

No, it doesn't even need to do the swap instruction. It'll just swap the registers it uses in the subsequent instructions.

So instead of doing something like

```
Add R1, 4
Add R2, 5
```

It'll just generate

```
Add R2, 4
Add R1, 5
```

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Possibility. It really depends on the following code.

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